

WI-437
William H. Price House
Salisbury
Private

c. 1850

Clearly one of the oldest dwellings that remains on Second Street in Salisbury's west side neighborhood is a two-story, three-bay frame house historically known as the William H. Price house. Flush gable ends, six-over-six sash windows and a Greek Revival cornice convincingly point to a construction date around 1850. A distinct seam in the cornice indicates that the main block was probably erected in two stages, beginning with a two-story, two-bay, one-room plan house that was enlarged shortly afterwards with a two-story addition to the south.

Ownership of this house and lot during the mid 19th century is uncertain, however it is included in the large land holdings of Purnell Toadvine by 1878, and the year before it was designated on the Salisbury City map included in the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas. A few years later, in 1881, the property was sold in the wake of court settlement of Purnell Toadvine's estate, and it was described at the time as "...a house and lot....in that part known as 'California' and now occupied by William H. Price...." "California" was the name that had been applied to the west side neighborhood that was subdivided into building lots during the mid 19th century. The association with its far western namesake is obscure but may simply refer to its west side of the Wicomico River location as well as the fact that it was a place of speculation and opportunity during the mid nineteenth century like its west coast counterpart.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: William H. Price House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-437

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition
1815-1870
4. Resource Type(s): Dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-437

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic William H. Price House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 142 Second Street

☐ not for publication

city, town Salisbury

☐ vicinity of

congressional district First

state Maryland

county

Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Robert J. and Laverne K. Briddell

street & number 1107 Middleneck Road

telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury

state and zip code

MD

21801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court

Map 106, P. 1215
liber 1031

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse

folio 547

city, town Salisbury

state

MD

21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal

☐ state

☐ county

☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-437

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The William H. Price house is located at 142 Second Street in the west side neighborhood of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame house faces southeast with the gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Dating around 1850-60, the two-story, three-bay frame main block was built in two distinct stages with a seam in the cornice and an uneven roof that suggests that the northern two bays predate the southern bay by a few years. Supported on a low brick pier foundation, the exterior is clad with vinyl siding, and the medium pitched gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a kitchen wing.

The southeast (main) elevation is a slightly uneven three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows. The front door is a replacement. The first floor is sheltered by a single story shed roof porch supported by Tuscan columns. The second floor is lighted by three replacement windows. Defining the base of the gable roof is a boxed cornice trimmed with a Greek Revival stepped bed molding. Piercing the center of the house is a two flue brick chimney stack.

The gable ends are defined by a single replacement window on each floor, and the edge of the roof is finished with a flush gable end covered with a plain bargeboard.

The rear elevation is partially covered by a rear service addition.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-437

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
___ 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ___ A ___ B ☒ C ___ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

Level of Significance: ___ national ___ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Clearly one of the oldest dwellings that remains on Second Street in Salisbury's west side neighborhood is a two-story, three-bay frame house historically known as the William H. Price house. Flush gable ends, six-over-six sash windows and a Greek Revival cornice convincingly point to a construction date around 1850. A distinct seam in the cornice indicates that the main block was probably erected in two stages, beginning with a two-story, two-bay, one-room plan house that was enlarged shortly afterwards with a two-story addition to the south.

Ownership of this house and lot during the mid 19th century is uncertain, however it is included in the large land holdings of Purnell Toadvine by 1878,¹ and the year before it was designated on the Salisbury City map included in the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas.² A few years later, in 1881, the property was sold in the wake of court settlement of Purnell Toadvine's estate, and it was described at the time as "...a house and lot...in that part known as 'California' and now occupied by William H. Price..."³ "California" was the name that had been applied to the west side neighborhood that was subdivided into building lots during the mid 19th century. The association with its far western namesake is obscure but may simply refer to its west side of the Wicomico River location as well as the fact that it was a place of speculation and opportunity during the mid nineteenth century like its west coast counterpart.

¹ Wicomico County Land Record, SPT 3/13, 18 May 1878.

² John L. Graham, ed. The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Wicomico County Bicentennial Committee, 1976, p. 19.

³ Wicomico County Land Record, SPT 4/103, 3 February 1881.

Survey No. WI-437

Quadrangle scale _____

H | | | | |

PS-2746

WI-437
William H. Price House
142 Second Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 106, Parcel 1215

1031/547 Constance E. Green, Ella Purnell, Personal Rep.
of the estate of Emma V. Russell

to

1/30/1985 Robert J. Briddell
Laverne K. Briddell

JWTS 680/329 Margaret T. Walker, et al. Executrices under the will
of Alice F. Smith

to

11/12/1968 Emma Virginia Russell

EAT 70/38 Daisey M. Bell

to

7/6/1910 Alice F. Smith
William M. Smith
"California"

EAT 70/38 William M. Smith

to

7/2/1910 Daisey M. Bell
"California"

WI-437

Page 2

William H. Price House
142 Second Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

EAT 62/455

Robert E. Ryall
Sarah B. Ryall

to

5/26/1910

William M. Smith
\$700 "California"

EAT 43/396

Daisey M. Bell and others

to

2/1/1905

Robert E. Ryall

JTT 28/392

James C. Johnson, Sheriff

to

1/14/1899

Daisey M. Bell
Decree of Circuit Court, 12/26/1896, In the case of
Mary E. Marshall and Martha E. Marshall against E.
Stanley Toadvin, Esther P. Hammond, John T.
Hammond, Milton A. Parsons, and George W. Bell

...being the same property conveyed to Esther P.
Hammond by E. Stanley Toadvine and formerly
occupied by William H. Price....

WI-437

Page 3

William H. Price House
142 Second Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

SPT 4/103

E. Stanley Toadvine, trustee

to

2/3/1881

Esther P. Hammond
Josephine A. Rider
Decree of Circuit Court
...a house and lot...in that part known as "California"
and now occupied by William H. Price

SPT 3/13

E. Stanley Toadvine, trustee

to

5/18/1878

Purnell Toadvine
Equity Case, 4/3/1877, Purnell Toadvine vs. John D.
Johnson et al.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

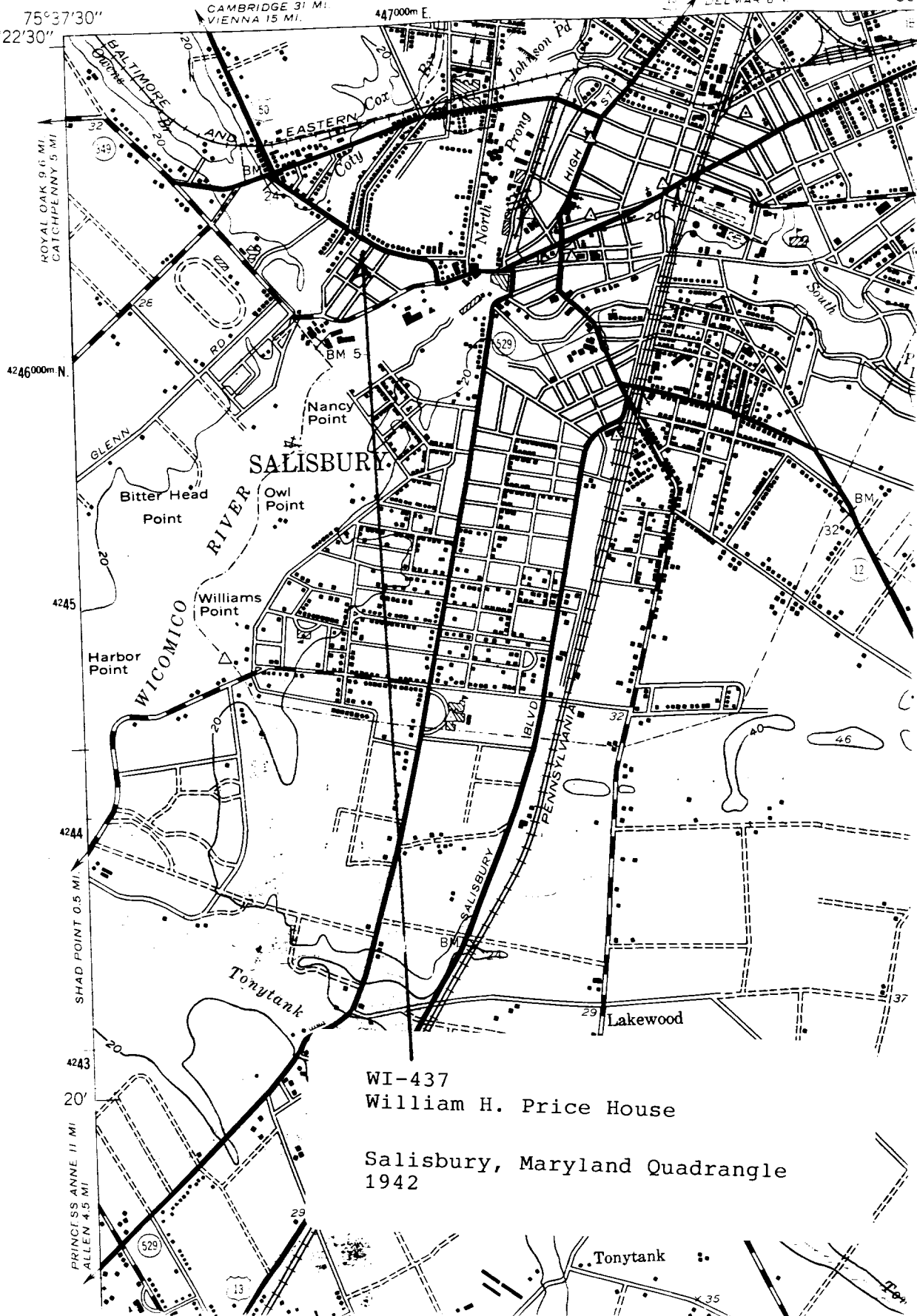
5860' NW
(HEBRON)

75°37'30"
38°22'30"

CAMBRIDGE 31 MI.
VIENNA 15 MI.

447000m E.

LAUREL 13 MI
DELMAR 6 MI



WI-437
William H. Price House

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942

Tonytank



